

3552 Elmley Ave.  
Baltimore 13, Md.  
June 21, 1944

Dr. Allen A. MacRae  
Faith Theological Seminary  
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Dr. MacRae:

The Banner recently carried a paragraph by you, lifted from Daily Manna, which I thought very good. It was on the subject of elevating non-essentials to the position of tests of orthodoxy, such as the Wednesday theory of crucifixion.

Yesterday I scanned through Dr. A. C. Gaebelain's book on "Will there be a millennium", and noticed that the introduction written by you had much more pointed and effective argument in it than the book itself. This was so painfully evident, that it made me wonder why on earth you had even consented to lend your support to such a project. The exegesis of Acts 15:14-17 was slovenly in the extreme, and totally incorrect. I don't need to instruct you that "After this I will return" is intended to belong to an O.T. quotation, and therefore has its point of view in the O.T. Nor do I need to tell you why James quoted this passage. On Gaebelain's construction, James suddenly changed the subject as the whole vista of dispensationalism suddenly dawned upon him. But no, he did not change the subject. He quoted the material to show an O.T. reason why Gentiles could be admitted into the church. The important part of the quotation is in v. 17, THAT the Gentiles might seek after the Lord. The booth of David rebuilt is a means to that end. This is a final or purpose clause. Notice therefore the sense which Gaebelain's construction yields: This which you see is a fulfilment of O.T. prophecy which states that after the Second Coming the Gentiles would be saved. Now if you like that sort of reasoning, far be it from me to stop you. But I think you have better friends, both your own, and also of the text, among the people of the Orthodox Presbyterian church.

I would like to ask a question which looms rather large in my estimate of Faith seminary: Is it possible for a real Calvinist to assert that regeneration does not precede faith, logically or temporally? I have it on good authority that one of the faculty members denies that regeneration must precede faith.

Sincerely yours,

*Edwards E. Elliott*